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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 38th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 9 March 2006, at 11.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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The meeting was called to order at 11.50 a.m.

Agenda item 124: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/60/L.48: Human Rights Council (*continued*) (A/60/7/Add.34; A/C.5/60/28)

1. **Ms. McGrath** (Ireland) said that, as the coordinator of informal consultations on the item in question, she wished to inform the Committee that, following two sessions of consultations, one delegation had requested more time to consider the matter. The Chef de Cabinet of the President of the General Assembly had expressed his intention to remain in contact with her and with the Bureau of the Fifth Committee in order to determine how to proceed.

2. **Mr. Wolf** (United States of America) said that his delegation, which had requested more time for consultation on the important matter in hand, appreciated the Committee's consideration and would keep it informed of developments.

3. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that her Group had stood ready, since the previous meeting of the Committee on 6 March 2005, to adopt a decision on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/60/L.48, in accordance with rule 153 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, so that the Human Rights Council could be established.

4. Noting that the Committee was unable to take action on that matter at the current meeting because one delegation was still awaiting further instructions from its capital, the Group assured the Chairman that it was prepared to respond rapidly to the General Assembly President's appeal for prompt action on the issue. It was prepared to take an active part in negotiations on all the many items before the Committee, to ensure that the Organization's resources were not wasted.

5. The Group of 77 and China supported reforms to strengthen the United Nations, including its human rights machinery. After several months of negotiations, a decision must be taken as rapidly as possible in order to ensure that that machinery carried on its functions without interruption.

6. **Mr. Drofenik** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union and recalling that he had explained its position on the matter at the Committee's previous meeting on 6 March 2005, reiterated that the European Union was satisfied with the statement of programme budget implications as it stood. However, as consultations were still in progress and the Fifth Committee acted by consensus, the European Union would await the advice of the President of the General Assembly on the way forward.

7. **Mr. Simancas** (Mexico) said that in his delegation's view, the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications was clear and the Advisory Committee's associated report was even clearer. The Fifth Committee, in accordance with its mandate, had been called upon to examine the statement of programme budget implications, and had found no objection to it on financial or technical grounds. His delegation reiterated its support for the draft resolution and its readiness to adopt a decision on the programme budget implications as rapidly as possible.

8. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished its Bureau to remain in contact with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, with a view to scheduling further consultations on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/60/L.48.

9. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at noon.